



9-12-77

*Pub Affairs*  
*8 Aug 77*

Herbert E. Hetu  
Assistant for Public Affairs  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C., 20505

Dear Mr. Hetu:

Although your reply to us suggests that on August 17 you had such an "unusually high level" of phonecalls that you could not respond to my query about the spelling of a former CIA official's name, my memory of the incident leads me to believe that whatever the level was, the calls weren't being answered.

STAT

My repeated calls to [redacted] were intercepted by a receptionist who said that [redacted] was in a meeting, a meeting that she said would "last all afternoon."

STAT

This is not the first time I've had difficulty with your office in trying to get prompt replies to relatively simple questions.

I appreciate what you say are vigorous attempts "to be as forthcoming and open as possible," but your response to my editor compared with what your receptionist said was going on that afternoon in the Public Affairs shop leads me to wonder about the vigor and the openness.

I am not trying to be petulant. The point I'm trying to get across is that newspapers have deadlines and a duty to the public to get our facts straight.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

*Pub Affairs*  
Sincerely,  
*John J. Fialka*  
John J. Fialka

cc Admiral Stansfield Turner

Washington Star

225 Virginia Avenue, S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20061

B-18-77

Admiral Stansfield Turner  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C., 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

I had an experience yesterday which left me wondering about the purpose of your "Public Affairs Office."

The question I had was not what I would consider a very difficult one. I wanted to know the exact title and spelling of the name of a former CIA official--Carl Duckett.

In mid-afternoon I called the public affairs office and gave the question to a woman who answered the phone. Someone would be back to me shortly, she said.

About an hour later, at 4 p.m., I made what appears in retrospect to be my major mistake of the afternoon. I went to the bathroom. When I returned I was told that a [redacted] had called from the CIA.

STAT

I called back and was told that [redacted] was in a meeting. An hour later I called back again and was told [redacted] was in a meeting. At 6 p.m. I was told that [redacted] was in a meeting that "would last the rest of the afternoon."

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Unless there are some national security problems surrounding the identity of Duckett--and I tend to doubt that--I am at a loss to know why someone could not take the two minutes necessary to look up his name, title and relay the information to me over the phone.

Perhaps the office of Public Affairs is a cover for some other form of activity, such as holding internal conferences. If that is so perhaps you could carry out your mandate to de-mystify the non-security aspects of the CIA by changing the office's name to "non-public affairs" or some similar title that wouldn't mislead us.

WDC SS 4 11 11

Sincerely,

*John J. Fialka*  
John J. Fialka



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

*John Fialka*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

7 September 1977

Mr. James G. Bellows  
Editor  
The Washington Star  
225 Virginia Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20061

Dear Mr. Bellows:

A member of your staff, Mr. John J. Fialka, sent the attached letter to the Director of Central Intelligence.

We make sincere efforts to return all our incoming media calls as promptly and with as much candor as possible. Other members of your staff who call on us regularly will confirm this fact.

However, with limited time and people, it is sometimes difficult to be as responsive as we would like when incoming calls reach an unusually high level. The day in question was such a day.

In any case, at a time when we are vigorously attempting to be as forthcoming and open as possible, it is discouraging and disappointing to receive such a petulant and sarcastic missile.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Herbert E. Hetu  
Assistant for Public Affairs  
to the Director of Central Intelligence

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Public Affairs  
8 Aug 77

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Sincerely,

CHIEF

Herbert E. Hetu  
Assistant for Public Affairs  
to the Director of Central Intelligence  
(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE - Pub Affs)

Enc.

A/DCI/PAO/HEH/kgf/7 September 1977

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

**Routing Slip**

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TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		✓		
2	DDCI				
3	D/DCI/IC				
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	D/DCI/NI				
9	GC				
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S				
15	DTR				
16	Asst/DCI				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
20	D/EE0				
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks:

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